

INSTALLING A PORTABLE GENERATOR

You are getting prepared for the hurricane season and you are considering purchasing a generator to provide emergency power to your home or business in case of power failure. Do you need a permit? And if you do, what is needed to obtain one?

A building permit is not required for the use of a portable generator **only** when it is intended to power a few appliances (refrigerator, fan, etc.) and a string of lights that are connected directly to the generator. However, if you wish to connect a portable generator to the building's electrical system to power certain circuits, you must retain an electrical contractor to secure an electrical permit for the installation of a device that will allow you to do this safely (transfer switch). **WARNING:** portable generators must be stored indoors empty of fuel while not in use and must be placed outdoors while being used, 10' away from windows, doors and other openings to prevent exhaust fumes from getting inside the building.